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VIRGINIA GLEANINGS IN ENGLAND

Contributed by Reginald M. Glencross, 176 Worplee Road,
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(Continued)

ANNE DYGGES widow.

Will dat. 9 Aug. 1509. To be buried in p'ish church of All Hallows, Canterbury before the Holy Rood next to the choir door. To high altar there for tithes etc 6s. 8d. To the Cross light there 6s. 8d. To church of St. John Baptist at Swynkefeld, Berks., & a portucris written. For my soul in Sd church at my burial 30 masses, also at my months day 30 masses, at Twelve months day 30 masses. To Dame Margaret my dau'r. my heart's blessing & best standing cup & my great book of prayers. All debts she owes me of my lands in Berkshire. Sir Richard Worthington to sing for my soul unto the year be come up that he hath begon'. To each of the orders of Friars in Canterbury 3s. 4d. To house of nuns at St. Sepulchres 5s. To house of Canons at Leeds 6s. 4d. To our Lady of Walsingham my best hoop of gold. Out of debts owing me by Mr. James Digges, to Isabel D., his dau'r toward marriage £4. To Anne Exherst 12 pairs of sheets. To Anne Beell 6s. 8d. To Anne Saltyn & Anne Lambbart 20d. each. Ex'ors to sell my lands at Asche which I have in fee except place called Brookes which I give to Ric. Exherst in fee Rest of Goods. Sd. Ric. Exherst & Thomas Beell to be ex'ors (*Witnesses*) Henry of Rog. Squyer p'son of sd. Alhalows, Thomas Halybell Mr. of the East Brigge in Cant. Rog. Worthington Chaplyn, William Saltyn and other.
Proved 5 Nov. 1509 by Thomas Beell exor.

Bennett 21.

[The wills printed here are those of members of the family from which Edward Digges, Governor of Virginia, descended. Anne Digges does not appear in the only pedigree now accessible—that in *Berry's Kent*. She was probably the widow of some member of the family in the generation preceding James Digges. She evidently left no sons and was not an ancestress of any of the branches of the family. Her will is of interest as that of a devout lady of the old faith.

James Digges, of Barham, whose will is printed below, was a son of John Digges of Barham and his wife Joan, daughter of Sir Gervas Clifton, Knight. John Digges had also a son William, doubtless the person to whose son Thomas, James Digges gave the reversion of much of his estate. James Digges married first, Mildred, daughter of John Fineux, Chief Justice of England and had a son John, who had a son William, both mentioned in the will. Barham descended in this, the elder line. James Digges married secondly, Philippa, daughter of John Engham, of Cliart, and had a son Leonard Digges, of Wootton Court, who married Sarah Wilsford. Leonard and Sarah Digges were the parents of Thomas Digges (died 1595 and buried at St. Mary, Aldermanbury, London) who married Anne, daughter of St. Warham St. Leger, of Ulcomb. She died in 1636 aged 61. Their eldest son was Sir Dudley Digges, of Chilham (died March 18, 1836) who married Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Thomas Kemp, of Olantigh. Edward Digges, Governor of Virginia, and ancestor of the Virginia and Maryland families, was son of the last named. Though James Digges does not seem to have been as ardent a Catholic as his kinswoman, he provides in his will for obits &c.]

JAMES DIGGES, of p'ish of Derham [Berham?] co. Kent, esq.

Testament dat. 20 Feb. 1535[-6] 27 Hen. VIII. To be buried in church of D. a'fs'd in North Chancel where my mother & my wife lie. Pious legacies to D., Kyngston next Darham a'fs'd., — & p'isoners at Canterbury. To my wife Philip a vestment of green. To William D., son of my eldest son John D., apparel & ornaments of my chapel in my mansion house that I now dwell in, at 24. To s'd wife & Leonard D., my son half of residue of goods & other half to s'd. William D. at 24. My wife Philip, John Sakevyle esq. Robert Brente my nephew gent & my son Leonard D., to be ex'ors. Sir William Hawte knight to be overseer. If my ex'ors be vexed for taking issues of my manor of Outelmynton which I now dwell in unto time s'd. William D. & Francis D., his brother be 24, half of goods bequeathed to s'd Wm. to go to ex'ors.

Will of same date as to lands in Kent, Canterbury & suburbs & town of Sandwich, all now held by feoffees to my use. My manor of Outelmynton charged with legacies etc., also lands thereto in Kyngston, Bishopsbourne & Pinyotede, Kent.

My wife Philip to have rents thereof till William D., son of John D., my eldest son dec., be 24, (paying to my son Leonard £5 a year during her (Philip's) life & to Francis D., brother of sd. William D. 5 marks yearly for his life). Lands etc., to sd. William at 24 for life & to his heirs male charged with obit in Darham church & 3s. 4d. To Master of Maidstone College towards payment of obit under will of my cousin Richard D. in Maidstone church. S'd. W. to pay to his brother Francis at 15, 5 marks yearly for life. If s'd W. die s. p. under 24, s'd manor etc. to s'd Francis at 24 similarly in default to next heir male of body of Thomas Digges son of William D. late of Newington bende Sittingbourne in default to my next heirs. Lands in Canterbury etc. to s'd grandchildren W. & F. D. in default to sd. son Leonard D. & his heirs male in default to sd. Thomas Digges etc. *as before*. Feoffees of my cousin Richard Digges to stand seised of my lands in Maidstone, manor of Mayton to uses as last above according to will of sd. R. Digges. Obit to be kept at Maidstone according to sd will. My feoffees Edward Hawte, William Kemp, Thomas Bele gentlemen & Thomas A Denne thelder to stand seised of my manor of Yoke to use of heirs of my son John according to fine of entail of Sir Roger Norwode knight, & of my manor of Netherhardes to same uses in recompense for manor of Wycherlyng which I sold to the Savoy of my manor of Fokeham & lands in Frenobede & Leneham, Kent which was late Thomas Cobhams & John Payfrere, also lands John Nethersole late had to farm unto use of John D., my son & Mildred his wife & their heirs male, in default to my son Leonard etc., & of my manor of Popeshall iuxta Dover, manor of Brome next Byrton etc., to use of my wife for life, remainder to sd Leonard in tail male, in default to heirs male of sd son John, in default to heirs male of sd cousin Thomas Digges, in default to right heirs. *Witnesses* Augustine Wormyll, clerk, John Foste de Cant., Bartelmewe Berham, Thomas Ladde, Robert Watson, Robert Hawkyng etc.

Proved 24 Nov. 1540 by Leonard Digges & Phillipa the rebet, the ex'ors. Power reserved to the other ex'ors.

Proved 25 June 1544 to Robert Brent ex'or.

JOHN FLETE of Bedenden co. Kent.

Will dat. 8 Aug. 1556. To my wife Margaret half of household stuff & other half to all my sons equally at 21 or marriage. To s'd wife £80. To my 3 sisters 20s. a piece & to every of their children 20s. a piece. To every of the sons of my brother William F. & to his dau's 20s. each. To my brother's wife 20s. To my son William F. gold ring at 21. To my s'd 4 sons plate at 21, if they die same to dau'r Alice or, if she die, to my bro. William F. Ex'ors to purchase lands with residue of goods. My wife to put all my sons to school until 15. Wm. Flete my brother & William F., my son, ex'ors. My wife to be overseer will of lands. To my wife Margaret yearly rent of £20 out of lands in Kent, for life in bar of ½ my land to which she is entitled under custom of the county. To my elder son William F., lands etc. in Charing, Westwell, Little Chart, Pevington & 2 mills called Ford Mill, in fee, but if he die under 21, same to all my s'd sons in fee. To Thomas Flete my lands in Halden & Bedersden & fee simple rent I bought of Bone & Padyam that Richard Stedman doth hire & £110, in fee. If he die under 21, same to my 3 sons in fee. To my third son John F., house etc I now dwell in, the 3 fields I bought of Stephen Harlackenden, woods I bought of Lawrence Day at Marden, in fee 6 £200. If he die under 21, same among my 3 sons. To my 4th son Samuel F., annuities etc., save one fee simple bought of Rooper & £170 in ready money etc., if he die under 21 same to my 3 sons. My 4 sons to pay to their mother £5 a piece for life. To my daur Alice wife of Robert Gibben (*ends here*).

Proved 9 Dec. 1558 by William Flete senior ex'or. Power reserved to William Flete junior also exor now a minor.

12 July 1560 commission to William Flete jun. William Flete senior present.

Helles 14.

[The son or brother William Fleet named in this will was probably identical with the William Fleet who married Katherine Honeywood, of Kent, and died between 1584 and 1586. They were grand-parents of Henry Fleet who emigrated to Virginia. See this Magazine II, 71 & V, 253, 254.

John Fleet, whose will follows was evidently son of a citizen of

Worcester, since he leaves his father's portrait to that city. William and Katherine (Honeywood) Fleet had a son Thomas, possibly father of this John.]

JOHN FLEETE, of Hallowe, co. Worcester, Esq.

Dated 20 Oct. 1618.

Codicil 28 Dec. 1618

Proved 16 Feb. 1618-19

To be entered in the parishe church of St. Ellyn in the Citie of Worcester.

And as concerning the greatest parte of my Landes Tenements and Leases, the same are already passed and Conveyed at the marriage of my Sonne THOMAS and I doe confirme and corroborat the same.

To my sonne THOMAS FLEETE, one silver Bason and Ewer etc., which were given unto me by my Father Mr. THOMAS FLEETE.

To my sonne JOHN FLEETE, my lands, meadowes, and pastures lying in the parishe of St. Johns in Bedwardine, co., Worcester called Colewicke or Colemans Land. Also my Lease of Rouckswood Farms, he paying yearlie out of the profitts thereof, unto my neiphue RAFE TWIGFALL, £5. Also my Lease of St. Hellens Harbor, with the meadowe thereunto belonging and one other meadow adjoining graunted by my Cosin Mr. ROBERT STEYNOR, and now in the occupation of JOHN SMYTHE. Also one parcell of grounde lying neere Perry wood, co. Worcester, called Ryngswood als the Harp.

To my Daughter ANNE ACTON, one silver salt

Whereas I have before my marriage, conveyed unto my Brother in lawe EDWARD BOUGHTON of Litle Lawford in Co. Warwick, Esq., and others my Lease of Perry Courte, neere the City of Worcester for the benefitt of my wife. Now yf my wife shall decease before the expiracon of the said Lease then the Residue unexpired shall remain to my said Sonne JOHN FLEETE.

Residuary Legatee & Sole Executrix: ANNE, my wife.

THOMAS DANFORD; EDMOND COWLINGE; THOMAS PENSON; JOHN SMYTHE; Witnesses.

Parker 18.

Codicil dated 28 Dec. 1618.

To my Grandchilde, ANNE ACTON, £50 to be paid unto her at the age of Seventeene yeres.

To my Godsonne, JOHN ACTON, £10.

To my daughter ANNE ACTON, her other two Children, £5 a peece, to be paid unto them at the age of twentie and one yeres.

To my Grandchilde, JOHN FLEETE, £5 to be paid at like age.

To my Sonne in Lawe, Mr. THOMAS ACTON, £10.

To my Brother Mr. EDWARD FLEETE, 40s.

To my Sister COWCHER and my Sister MITTON, 40s. a peece.

To my Neiphues Mr. THOMAS NASHE, Mr. THOMAS FLEETE, Mr. THOMAS COWCHER, Mr. JOHN COWCHER & Mr. JOHN NASHE and to my Neece Mrs. MARY HALL 40s. each to make them Rynge.

To my Cosins Mr. THOMAS HALL & JANE wife of Mr. ROGER FARLEY, 40s. apeece to the same Intent.

To the City of Worcester, my Father's Picture and my owne picture to be set up over the "Tollsey" of the said Citie amongst the other pictures there.

To the anncient Clerke, WILLIAM YOUNGER, £3. 6. 8d.

To my servant THOMAS DANFORD £5.

To my servant JOHN PERKINSON, 40s.

To my servant GEORGE JACKMAN, the "Estraye" Mare and Colte which he tooke up at Ridmarley.

To my servants, THOMAS PENSON & EDWARD COWLINGE, 40s. apeece.

To my servant, JOHANE BIDLE, £10.

To the poore of Hallow, 40s.

JOHN PARKINSON

GEORGE JACKMAN

THOMAS DANFORD

Witnesses

Proved 16 Feb. 1618-19 by the Sole Executrix named.

Parker 18.

(To be continued)